

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) A method comprising:  
in response to a first request on behalf of a requesting instance of a plurality of instances of an application, providing  
a criterion for identifying a set of instances of the plurality of instances to receive first data and  
a location of the first data; and  
providing the first data to the requesting instance when  
a second request is made on behalf of the requesting instance for the first data upon  
determining that the requesting instance satisfies the criterion.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the providing the criterion and the location comprises:  
providing the criterion and the location when  
second data associated with the criterion and the location have been updated.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the providing the criterion and the location comprises:  
providing the criterion and the location when  
second data associated with the criterion and the location have been updated since a time  
specified in the second request.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
receiving a message indicating whether the first data was received.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:  
providing the first data again upon request by the requesting instance when the message indicates that an error occurred in receiving the first data.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the first data comprise configuration data for each of the set of instances of the application.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the first data comprise an announcement to be sent to each of the set of instances of the application.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
the first data comprise one of:  
a first executable program for each of the set of instances of the application,  
a second executable program to install a third executable program for each of the set of instances of the application, and  
a component of the application for each of the set of instances of the application.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
an index file comprises the criterion and the location; and  
the providing the criterion and the location comprises providing the index file.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein  
an index file comprises the criterion and the location, and  
the providing the criterion and the location comprises:  
appending the criterion to a set of existing criteria in an index file, and  
providing the index file.

11. (Original) A system comprising:  
first providing means for providing  
a criterion for identifying a set of instances of a plurality of instances of an application to  
receive first data and  
a location of the first data  
in response to a first request on behalf of a requesting instance of the plurality of  
instances of the application;  
and  
second providing means for providing the first data to the requesting instance when  
a second request is made on behalf of the requesting instance for the first data upon  
determining that the requesting instance satisfies the criterion.
12. (Original) The system of claim 11 further comprising:  
receiving means for receiving a message indicating whether the first data was received.
13. (Original) The system of claim 12 further comprising:  
third providing means for providing the first data again upon request by the requesting  
instance when the message indicates that an error occurred in receiving the first  
data.
14. (Original) The system of claim 11 wherein  
an index file comprises the criterion and the location; and  
the first providing means provide the index file.
15. – 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium comprising:  
first providing instructions to provide  
a criterion for identifying a set of instances of a plurality of instances of an application to  
receive first data and  
a location of the first data  
in response to a first request on behalf of a requesting instance of the plurality of  
instances of the application;  
and  
second providing instructions to provide the first data to the requesting instance when  
a second request is made on behalf of the requesting instance for the first data upon  
determining that the requesting instance satisfies the criterion.
20. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 further comprising:  
receiving instructions to receive a message indicating whether the first data was received.
21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 further comprising:  
third providing instructions to provide the first data again upon request by the requesting  
instance when the message indicates that an error occurred in receiving the first  
data.
22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 19 wherein  
an index file comprises the criterion and the location; and  
the first providing instructions provide the index file.

23. (Original) A computer system comprising:  
a processor for executing instructions; and  
a memory for storing the instructions, wherein the instructions comprise:  
first providing instructions to provide  
a criterion for identifying a set of instances of a plurality of instances of an  
application to receive first data and  
a location of the first data  
in response to a first request on behalf of a requesting instance of the plurality of  
instances of the application;  
and  
second providing instructions to provide the first data to the requesting instance when  
a second request is made on behalf of the requesting instance for the first data  
upon determining that the requesting instance satisfies the criterion.
24. (Original) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the instructions further comprise:  
receiving instructions to receive a message indicating whether the first data was received.
25. (Original) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the instructions further comprise:  
third providing instructions to provide the first data again upon request by the requesting  
instance when the message indicates that an error occurred in receiving the first  
data.
26. (Original) The computer system of claim 23 wherein  
an index file comprises the criterion and the location; and  
the first providing instructions provide the index file.
27. (Original) A computer readable medium for storing instructions executable by a first  
computer system, wherein a method is performed by the first computer system in response to  
executing the instructions, the method comprising the first computer system transmitting a file to  
each of a plurality of second computer systems, wherein the file comprises first and second data,  
wherein the first data is processable by each of the plurality of second computer systems to  
determine whether it should receive data stored at a location identified by the second data.

28. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein the plurality of second computer systems is a subset of computer systems coupled to the first computer system.

29. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 27 further comprising the first computer system transmitting the data to one of plurality of second computer systems in response to the first computer system receiving a request from the one of the plurality of second computer systems, wherein the first computer system receives the request after transmitting the file to the one of the plurality of second computer systems.

30. (Original) A computer readable medium for storing instructions executable by a first computer system, wherein a method is performed by the first computer system in response to executing the instructions, the method comprising:

in response to receiving a file from a second computer system, the first computer system processing first data of the file to determine whether the first computer system should request data stored at a location identified by second data of the file.

31. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 30 wherein processing first data comprises comparing the first data with third data stored in the first computer system, wherein the first computer system transmits a request the data stored at the location if the first computer system determines that the first data compares equally to the third data, wherein the first computer system transmits the request to the second computer system.